

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/813,110

Examiner

Crystal J. Barnes

Applicant(s)

SUNAOSHI, TAKAMITSU

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed on 31 March 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Notice of Allowability upon examination of the above-identified application on the merits. Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eckhard H. Kuesters, Reg. No. 28,870 on 1 August 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 7 line 28, deleted "23" and inserted --24--.

Page 11 line 21, inserted --(S63)-- after "slave unit 9".

Page 11 line 22, deleted "(S63)" and inserted --(S62)--.

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

- "command input means 23" in figure 3 should be "command input means 24" and
- "operative condition presenter 24" in figure 3 should be "operative condition presenter 5".

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 1-23 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claim 1, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fails to teach comparing the absolute value of the difference with a preset reference value; and depending upon the result of the comparison, determining a normal master/slave operative mode or a transitional master/slave operative mode, in said master/slave operative mode, said transitional master/slave operative mode is a

transitional mode from the non-master/slave operative mode to the master/slave operative mode.

As per claim 22, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fails to teach comparing the absolute value of the difference with a preset reference value, and switching the operative mode between a transitional master/slave operative mode and a normal master/slave operative mode depending upon the result of the comparison, the transitional master/slave operative mode being a transitional mode from a non-master/slave operative mode to the master/slave operative mode.

As per claim 23, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fails to teach comparing the absolute value of the difference with a preset reference value; and depending upon the result of the comparison, determining a normal master/slave operative mode or a transitional master/slave operative mode which is a transitional mode from a non-master/slave operative mode to the master/slave operative mode.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled

"Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Priority

6. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

7. The examiner has considered the information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 22 June 2005, 20 May 2005 and 16 August 2004.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to manipulator control systems in general:

USPN 6,889,116 B2 to Jinno

USPN 6,853,879 B2 to Sunaoshi

USPN 6,659,939 B2 to Moll et al.

USPN 6,459,926 B1 to Nowlin et al.

USPN 6,120,433 to Mizuno et al.

USPN 5,047,701 to Takarada et al.

JPPN 2004-299012 A to SUNAOSHI

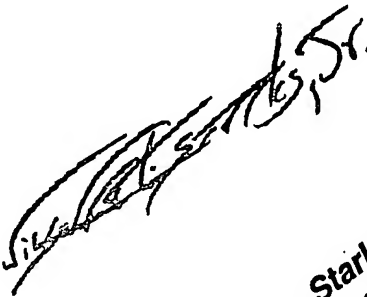
JPPN 2003-340752 A to SUNAOSHI et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Crystal J. Barnes whose telephone number is 571.272.3679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday alternate Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571.272.3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CJB
2 August 2005



Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit - 2121